

**SAGINAW COUNTY FRIEND OF THE COURT**  
**STANDARD PARENTING TIME SCHEDULE 2025**

It is the obligation and responsibility of each parent to facilitate and encourage parenting time. Both parents should support the other parent's relationship with their child(ren), and child(ren) should be encouraged to engage in a relationship with both parents. The Friend of the Court prefers that parents work together to determine their own parenting time schedule, as every family is unique in its own way and each family may have special circumstances. Both parties should work together to create a reasonable parenting time that will work for their own family. In the event an agreement is not able to be reached, and an order refers to standard parenting time guidelines, the Friend of the Court will enforce the schedule as stated below. The Friend of the Court cannot enforce agreements between the parties not reflected in a court order.

**INFANT PARENTING TIME SCHEDULES**

**If there are older siblings involved, the infant parenting time schedule shall apply unless modified by court order.**

**Step One: Birth to three months**

The non-custodial parent shall have parenting time three times per week for a total of two hours each. Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, parenting time shall be Monday and Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., and Saturday from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. Holiday parenting time shall be pursuant to the limited holiday parenting time schedule on page 5.

**Step Two: Three months to six months**

Same as Step One with the exception of expanding Saturday parenting time from 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

**Step Three: Six months until 12 months**

Same as Step Two with the exception of Saturday expanding to an overnight. Parenting time on Saturday shall be from 12:00 p.m. until Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

**WHEN PARTIES LIVE WITHIN 100 MILES OF EACH OTHER FOR CHILDREN 12 MONTHS**  
**AND OLDER**

**Weekend**

Unless specifically spelled out in the court order, the party receiving parenting time shall have parenting time with the minor child(ren) on alternating weekends from 6:00 p.m. Friday to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, beginning the first Friday upon entry of the order.

**Weekdays**

The party receiving parenting time shall have one evening each week for three (3) hours, to be agreed upon by the parties. In the event the parties are not able to agree on a day, the parent exercising parenting time shall have every Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The parent exercising parenting time shall be responsible for all transportation to and from parenting time.

**Holidays and Periods of Extended Parenting Time (Please note that any exceptions that are set out in the order take precedence over the standard holiday/extended parenting time, set out below.)**

<b>HOLIDAY/BREAK</b>	<b>ODD YEARS</b>	<b>EVEN YEARS</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Spring break	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	Spring break is defined as 6:00 p.m. the last day of school until 6:00 p.m. the day before school resumes. *
Easter	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	6:00 p.m. Friday to 6:00 p.m. Sunday **
Mother's Day	MOTHER	MOTHER	Each year, Mother shall have Mother's Day from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. If neither party is the Mother of the minor child(ren), this provision does not apply.
Father's Day	FATHER	FATHER	Each year, Father shall have Father's Day from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. If neither party is the Father of the minor child(ren), this provision does not apply.
4 <sup>th</sup> of July	DEFENDANT	PLAINTIFF	July 3 <sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to July 5 <sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
Halloween	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	From after school – 8:00 p.m. (if age 12 and under only).
Thanksgiving	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	6:00 p.m. on Wednesday (the day before the holiday) until 6:00 p.m. on the Sunday following Thanksgiving.
Christmas break	DEFENDANT	PLAINTIFF	For the first half, the designated parent shall have the child(ren) the first portion of Christmas vacation for 6 overnights and the other parent shall have the remaining portion. Christmas break is defined as the last day of school until 6:00 p.m. the day before school resumes. ***
Christmas Eve	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	December 23 <sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. until December 24 <sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m.
Christmas Day	DEFENDANT	PLAINTIFF	December 24 <sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. until December 25 <sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m.
Child(ren)'s birthday	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	If a child's birthday falls during the summer, on a weekend, or on a day when there is no school, the birthday time shall be from 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. If a child's birthday falls on a scheduled school day, the birthday time shall be from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. If a child's birthday falls on a designated holiday, the holiday takes precedence over the birthday. All children are included on each child's birthday.

**\*SPRING BREAK** – If there are no school-aged children or the child(ren) are home-schooled, then Spring break begins at 6:00 p.m. the Saturday before Easter and ends at 6:00 p.m. the following Sunday. In odd numbered years, Plaintiff's parenting time shall begin at 6:00 p.m. the Saturday before Easter. In even numbered years, Defendant's parenting time shall begin 6:00 p.m. the Saturday before Easter. If any of the children are in regular school during the school year, then all the children shall go as per the time allotted for Spring break.

**\*\*EASTER** – In the event Easter falls during spring break, then spring break schedule supersedes Easter schedule.

**\*\*\*CHRISTMAS SCHOOL VACATION** – If there are no school-aged children or the child(ren) are home-schooled, then Christmas break begins at 6:00 p.m. on December 20<sup>th</sup> and ends at 6:00 p.m. on January 1<sup>st</sup>. If any child(ren) are in regular school during the school year, then all of the children shall go per the time allotted for the Christmas school break.

**\*\*\***If a party's weekend falls on Memorial Day or Labor Day, then the weekend extends to 6:00 p.m. Monday.

### **Summer**

Summer parenting time shall be rotated week-on, week-off, starting at 6:00 p.m. the first Friday after school ends (if the last day of school is on a Friday, then Summer break shall begin on that day), until 6:00 p.m. the Friday before school resumes. If there are no school-aged children or the child(ren) are home-schooled, then Summer break starts at 6:00 p.m. the first Friday in June and ends at 6:00 p.m. the last Friday in August. Whoever is already scheduled to have the weekend following school getting out for the summer will start the summer parenting time schedule. If any of the children are in regular school during the school year, then all of the children shall go as per the time allotted for the Summer school break.

\* The Holiday and Extended Parenting Time schedule, including Summer, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring break, does not change the alternating weekend schedule and any ordered midweek schedule. Those weekends and midweeks resume at the conclusion of the Holiday and Extended Parenting Time schedule. **BOTH PARTIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING A WRITTEN CALENDAR OF THEIR WEEKENDS AND ANY ENTITLED MIDWEEKS THROUGHOUT EACH YEAR, KNOWING THAT THOSE DAYS AND TIMES WHICH FALL DURING THE HOLIDAY AND EXTENDED PARENTING TIME SCHEDULE ARE FORFEITED.**

### **Telephone Parenting Time**

Parents are encouraged to help foster a relationship and healthy communication between their child(ren) and the other parent. While the amount of telephone parenting time will depend on the age of the child(ren), it is necessary for both parents to be flexible and reasonable in seeking and permitting telephone parenting time based on the child(ren)'s ages and activities.

- If the parties are not able to agree on reasonable telephone parenting time, telephone parenting time shall be 2 times per week, to be initiated by the non-custodial parent. FaceTime, Messenger, Skype, or any other form of verbal/visual contact may be used to substitute phone calls.
- If the parties cannot agree on the 2 times per week, then phone calls shall occur on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. for no more than 15 minutes each.

### **WHEN PARTIES LIVE OVER 100 MILES FROM EACH OTHER**

### **Weekends**

Parenting time during the school year shall be as the parties can agree. If the parties are unable to agree, then parenting time with the minor child(ren) shall be one weekend of every month, beginning at 6:00 p.m. the second Friday of the month until 6:00 p.m. Sunday. This parenting time shall be exercised in the same state the minor child(ren) resides in.

## Holidays and Periods of Extended Parenting Time

HOLIDAY/BREAK	ODD YEARS	EVEN YEARS	TIME
Spring school break	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	6:00 p.m. the last day of school until 6:00 p.m. the day before school resumes. *
Summer break	DEFENDANT	PLAINTIFF	The designated party shall have the minor child(ren) the first portion of summer break, which shall begin at 6:00 p.m. the first Friday after school ends and continues six weeks out, ending at 6:00 p.m. Friday. The other party shall have the remaining portion of summer break. **
Thanksgiving	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	6:00 p.m. on Wednesday (the day before the holiday) until Sunday at 6:00 p.m.
Christmas school vacation	DEFENDANT	PLAINTIFF	6:00 p.m. the last day of school until 6:00 p.m. the day before school resumes. ***

\* **Spring Break** - Defined as 6:00 p.m. the last day of school until 6:00 p.m. the day before school resumes. If there are no school-age children and/or if the child(ren) are home-schooled, then Spring break begins at 6:00 p.m. the Saturday before Easter and ends at 6:00 p.m. the Sunday following Easter.

\*\* **Summer Parenting Time** - Defined as beginning at 6:00 p.m. the first Friday after school ends (if the last day of school ends on Friday, then the Summer break shall begin on that day) until 6:00 p.m. the last Friday before school resumes. If there are no school-age children and/or if the child(ren) are home-schooled, Summer parenting time begins 6:00 p.m. the first Friday in June and ends 6:00 p.m. the last Friday in August.

\*\*\* **Christmas School Vacation** - Defined as 6:00 p.m. the last day of school until 6:00 p.m. the day before school resumes. If there are no school-age children or if the child(ren) are home-schooled, then Christmas break begins at 6:00 p.m. December 20<sup>th</sup> and ends at 6:00 p.m. January 1<sup>st</sup>. However, if any of the children are in regular school during the school year, then all of the children shall go as per the time allotted for the Christmas vacation.

### Telephone parenting time

Parents are encouraged to help foster a relationship and healthy communication between their child(ren) and the other parent. While the amount of telephone parenting time will depend on the age of the child(ren), it is necessary for both parents to be flexible and reasonable in seeking and permitting telephone parenting time based on the child(ren)'s ages and activities.

- If the parties are not able to agree on reasonable telephone parenting time, telephone parenting time shall be 2 times per week, to be initiated by the non-custodial parent. FaceTime, Messenger, Skype, or any other form of verbal/visual contact may be used to substitute phone calls.
- If the parties cannot agree on the 2 times per week, then phone calls shall occur on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. for no more than 15 minutes each.

**LIMITED HOLIDAY PARENTING TIME SCHEDULE**

Both parties shall work towards reasonable parenting time during any periods of time which are mutually agreeable to the parties. In the event of disagreement, parenting time will be alternate Saturdays from 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., the first Saturday following entry of this order, and the following Holiday schedule:

HOLIDAY	ODD YEARS	EVEN YEARS	TIME
Easter	NONCUSTODIAL		9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Mother’s Day	MOTHER	MOTHER	9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Father’s Day	FATHER	FATHER	9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Halloween	NONCUSTODIAL		4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (if age 12 and under only)
Thanksgiving		NONCUSTODIAL	9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve	NONCUSTODIAL		9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m..
Christmas Day		NONCUSTODIAL	9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Child’s birthday		NONCUSTODIAL	9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on non-school days and 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. on school days; if the child’s birthday falls on a holiday designated in this schedule, the holiday takes precedence over the birthday.

## PARENTING TIME REQUIREMENTS

**Please note that any exceptions, which are set out in the order, take precedence over any of the provisions in the following parenting time requirements:**

### Transportation/Exchanges

1. In the event the parties move either more than 100 miles from each other or within 100 miles from each other, the parenting time schedule shall automatically switch to either within 100 miles or more than 100 miles.
2. All unexpected non-school days are NOT considered the start of parenting time. Normal exchange times will control.
3. Transportation is to be provided (and paid for) by the party whose parenting time is beginning under the terms of the Order. The other party then obtains the minor child(ren) when his/her parenting time begins. The party who will be exercising parenting time shall pick up the minor child(ren) at the other party's residence.
4. Either party may designate a fully licensed and insured adult, who is not under the influence of any intoxicant and/or mood-altering substance, to transport the minor child(ren). The child(ren) must be familiar with that adult. Identification may be requested prior to release of the minor child(ren).
5. The parenting time schedule shall be exercised in a prompt manner. In the event of an unforeseen circumstance, a thirty (30) minute delay is allowed for picking up and returning the minor child(ren). If at any time one of the parties will not be exercising his/her parenting time with the minor child(ren), then that party shall give at least 24 hours prior notice to the other party that he/she is unable to exercise parenting time.
6. Parenting time exchanges are a time for children to be happily greeted by the other parent. They are not the time to discuss bills, child support, co-parenting disputes or personal issues. Information necessary for proper care and success of the child(ren) such as medications, sleep/feeding schedules, school activities, and homework should be shared freely. Appointments and other information that you would normally write down or place on a calendar should be shared with the other parent in writing.
7. Car seats must be used, and both parties must provide a car seat in compliance with State Law.
8. When transporting the minor child(ren) (for parenting time exchanges) via airlines, the rules of the airline must be followed. The flight schedule (including flight numbers and times) shall be provided to the other party at least one week before the travel. Generally, the nearest airport must be used to transport the minor child(ren) for parenting time exchanges. However, exceptions may be allowed by the Friend of the Court, taking into consideration such things as the rules of the airline, whether the flight is a direct/nonstop flight or a connecting transfer flight and departure and arrival times. (If there is a dispute as to which airport is to be used, the Friend of the Court has authority to resolve this disputed issue. Although transportation is to be provided (and paid for) by the party whose custody/parenting time is beginning, when air travel is used by either party for exchanges the party who is sending the child(ren) is responsible (at his/her expense) for getting the child(ren) to the airport/airlines and picking them up from the airport/airlines upon their return.

9. A general itinerary and emergency telephone number shall be provided to the other party if an out-of-town vacation is planned with the child(ren). Out-of-state travel, not in conflict with parenting time schedules, are allowed. This information shall be provided at least one week before the travel. In addition, if the airlines are used, the flight schedule (including flight numbers and times) shall be provided at least one week before the travel.

### **Special Occasions/Appointments/Activities**

1. Parents shall work together to accommodate the following: weddings and funerals for immediate family members. As much notice shall be provided to the other party, but no less than 30 days' notice for a wedding. However, the parent seeking the accommodation must be prepared to provide transportation for the event and provide make-up parenting time in exchange for the accommodation.
2. Medical appointments for the minor child(ren) are to be scheduled during the parenting time of the party who schedules the appointment.
3. Any medication prescribed by a doctor shall be administered consistent with doctor's orders. The medication in its prescription bottle shall be exchanged by the parties at pick-ups and drop-offs for parenting time.
4. A parent, regardless of the custody arrangement, shall not be denied access to records or information concerning his/her child(ren), unless prohibited by a protective order. Records or information include medical, dental, school records, day care provider's records, and notification of meetings regarding the child's education. 1996 PA 304, MCL 722.21; MSA 25.312(1) (SB 598).
5. The party who has the minor child(ren) for his/her parenting time, pursuant to the Court Order, decides what extracurricular activities the child(ren) will attend. However, if a party desires to have the child(ren) enrolled in, or participating in, an extracurricular activity, then both parties must provide a signed written agreement to the Friend of the Court that they agree. In that instance, then each party must see to it that the child(ren) attends the activity when the child(ren) is in that party's care for parenting time. If at any time there is a disputed issue regarding this provision, then either party may bring a motion before the Court to decide the disputed issue.
6. If the parties share legal custody, each parent must be listed as an emergency contact at the child(ren)'s school.
7. Each parent is responsible for obtaining their own medical, school, and extracurricular activities information.
8. It is the affirmative responsibility of each party to see that the minor child(ren)'s homework is completed in a timely manner.
9. Each parent is able to choose their own daycare providers for their own parenting time, unless the proposed daycare provider is prohibited by a Court order. If the daycare requires attendance during both parent's time, then the parties must agree upon a provider. If the parties do not agree, then it is a joint legal custody dispute and shall be submitted to the Court through the filing of a motion by the party who desires to enroll the child(ren) into the program.

10. Preschool is not deemed to be mandatory. Either party may enroll a child in a preschool program. However, attendance will not be mandatory during the other parent's time, unless attendance is required to maintain enrollment in the program, then it is a joint legal custody dispute.
11. Summer school necessary for the minor child(ren) to pass to the next grade must be attended. Either party must obtain written verification from the school regarding the necessity of summer enrollment. If either party misses parenting time because of required summer school, then that party may bring a motion before the Court to decide if make-up time should be granted.
12. Either party is entitled to attend school functions which are open to the public, such as extra-curricular activities, sporting events, awards assemblies, concerts, and parent/teacher conferences. If it is not a party's parenting time with the child(ren), then that party is not entitled to appear at the school to see or visit the child(ren), including having lunch with the child(ren). Neither party is to appear at the school to see the child(ren) unless requested, or specifically invited, by school personnel. The Friend of the Court has the authority to resolve any disputed issues regarding whether a party is allowed to appear at the school to see the child(ren). If a party disagrees with the position of the Friend of the Court, then that party may bring a motion before the Court to decide the disputed issue.

### **Denials**

1. A denial may take place if there is a Doctor's written directive as to the amount of time or days that the minor child(ren) cannot leave the home of the party who has the minor child(ren). This written directive must be provided to the other party. Make-up parenting time shall occur immediately after the time missed. The duration of make-up parenting time shall be the same as the time missed. If a party denies the other party parenting time for any other reason, it is the burden of the party withholding parenting time to provide to the Court that the denial was justified.
2. Parenting time shall not be denied based upon the child(ren) being grounded.
3. Child support and parenting time are separate issues. Parenting time shall not be withheld due to non-payment of support; likewise, the payer of support shall not withhold payment of support due to denial of parenting time.

### **Protective Orders/Juvenile Court Orders**

1. Personal Protection Orders (PPO) do not invalidate parenting time orders unless specifically addressed in the PPO. Exchanges for parenting time must occur in a manner that shall not violate the PPO (i.e., 3<sup>rd</sup> party transporters or alternate exchange location may be necessary). The PPO supersedes this parenting time schedule.
2. This parenting time schedule is suspended when the Juvenile Court has assumed jurisdiction of a matter pursuant to an abuse and/or neglect petition. The Juvenile Court Order supersedes this parenting time schedule for the life of the Juvenile Court case.

### **Miscellaneous**

1. During the pendency of divorce cases only, no unrelated significant others (boyfriend/girlfriend) are to be in the presence of the minor child(ren). This includes no overnights.



2. Unless the Court Order specifically states otherwise, each party must provide certain items for the minor child(ren) during his/her own custodial time. Those items include car seats, clothing, beds/cribs, bedding, baby bottles, formula, baby food and diapers.
3. Outerwear, such as boots, coats, hats, and mittens, shall be shared, and returned at the conclusion of each parenting time. In addition, the child(ren)'s school backpacks, lunch boxes, and athletic equipment necessary for games/practices shall be shared and returned at the conclusion of each parenting time.
4. If there are school-age children and non-school age children, then the younger child(ren) follow the parenting time schedule of the child(ren) in school. Kindergarten is the first recognized school grade.
5. Neither party shall speak in a derogatory fashion about the other party in the presence of the minor child(ren), and there shall be no negative interaction between the parties/significant others on social media. The parties/significant others are prohibited from placing any such negative comments on social media which could be viewed by anyone on social media. Each party to this case is responsible for making sure this provision is abided by.
6. Only the Orders of the Court can be enforced by the Friend of the Court, with respect to parenting time. Agreements between the parties, regardless of whether they are written or verbal, cannot be enforced by the Friend of the Court.
7. Neither party is allowed to discuss with the minor child(ren) any court matters involving the case.
8. In the event there is a dispute and the parenting time order does not address the disputed issue(s), the Friend of the Court has authority to resolve the disputed issue(s), INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, the following: the distance (mileage) between the parties' homes, what items shall be provided by each party during the child(ren)'s visit, who may pick up and return the child(ren) pursuant to the Court Ordered schedule, when a parenting time schedule begins, if the Order is silent, and what child related activities either party is prohibited from engaging in during parenting time (such as hair cutting, ear piercing, unauthorized non-emergency medical treatment, etc.) If a party disagrees with the position of the Friend of the Court, then that party may bring a motion before the Court to decide the disputed issues.